

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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\$10,000 FINES, YEAR'S PROBATION GIVEN TWO NEVADA MEN FOR INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF ILLEGALLY KILLED BLACK BEARS

Two Nevada men have been fined a total of \$10,000, given 60-day suspended jail sentences, and placed on probation for a year following their conviction for interstate transportation of black bears killed in violation of Nevada law.

James H. Lathrop, Jr., 28, of Carson City, and Steven T. Schlink, 24, of Reno, pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act and were sentenced August 7 by U.S. District Court Judge Harry E. Claiborne in Las Vegas.

The Lacey Act makes it a Federal crime to transport across State lines any wildlife that was hunted or trapped in violation of State laws. In Nevada it is illegal to kill black bear, where at least a dozen of the estimated population of 30 have been killed in recent years.

Lathrop has been convicted previously of violating Nevada law and a year ago had his hunting, fishing, and trapping license privileges suspended for 2 years. Schlink was convicted 3 years ago in Federal court of hunting ducks over baited areas.

The sentence culminated months of investigation by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Federal Grand Jury.

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